

California League for the Conservation of Public Health

Whereas, The President of the United States has issued a proclamation to the effect that all public health activities are to be centralized in the Department of the Treasury and to be placed under the supervision of the Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service; and

Whereas, the Assistant Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service was selected by the Council for National Defense to act as Chairman of the National Committee of Medicine and Surgery, together with joint members or representatives from five interested governmental departments and the representatives of organized medicine, organized industrial medicine, organized labor and organized industries, the purpose of the committee to supervise and conserve the health and welfare of the civil population during war-time; and

Whereas, This committee, through the Department of the Treasury, has the necessary facilities and resources for the adequate and effective prosecution of the work entrusted to it; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the California League for the Conservation of Public Health pledge its fullest and enthusiastic support to the Government, to the Council for National Defense and the United States Public Health Service; and be it further

Resolved, That the California League for the Conservation of Public Health suggest that the Public Health Service or the National Committee on Medicine and Surgery, or both, immediately undertake a comprehensive investigation of the conditions of the health of the American civil population, with particular reference to the extent, nature and causes of prevailing sickness and the effective means which might be adopted, looking toward their prevention.

Whereas, The United States Government through the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor, under the direction of Miss Julia Lathrop, is undertaking a nation-wide campaign looking toward the conservation of infant lives; and

Whereas, This League is organized for the purpose of conserving human lives, and the promotion of human welfare and happiness; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the California League for the Conservation of Public Health notify the Children's Bureau of the Department of Labor of the intents and purpose of this organization and its willingness and desire to co-operate in every way in the work which has been so splendidly begun by that body; and be it further

Resolved, That this League offer the Government at this time the service of its members, individually and collectively, to assist in the educational propaganda and individual service whenever requested.

Whereas, Malaria is prevalent in certain sections of the State of California; and

Whereas, Scientific methods are available to control the spread of this infectious disease; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the California League for the Conservation of Public Health offer the services of its organized membership to the California State Board of Health and other active agencies interested in the problem of malaria control to the end that this disease shall be placed on the list of those no longer prevalent in the State of California.

CALIFORNIA LEAGUE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH.

H. N. Ryfkogel, Secretary.

State Society

ATTITUDE OF GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES ON SOCIAL HEALTH INSURANCE.

The various candidates for nomination for Governor on the different party tickets have declared themselves on the subject of Social Health Insurance as follows:

J. O. Hayes is unqualifiedly opposed to the proposed amendment.

Judge Walter Bordwell takes the same attitude, as do also candidates McGee of San Diego and Charles M. Fickert of San Francisco.

Governor Stephens in his first announcement of his platform favored the measure and has not subsequently declared himself upon it.

We are not advised of the attitude of candidates Francis J. Heney and District Attorney Woolwine of Los Angeles.

Mayor Rolph of San Francisco issued the following statement August 7:

"Since the publication of my platform I have learned that the plank relating to health insurance has caused a wrong impression to exist in the minds of many concerning the character of legislation which I will favor in the event of the adoption of the Senate Constitutional Amendment providing for health insurance. I believe it proper, therefore, at this time, to briefly state my views on this subject, not only for the benefit of the medical profession, who are deeply interested, but likewise for the information of the working men and women who and whose families will be vitally affected by any system of health insurance that may be adopted.

"While I have declared in favor of the amendment, I am not committed to any particular plan to carry it into effect if adopted by the people. I will strenuously oppose, however, any legislation which will tend to degrade the medical profession or impair the efficiency of its members, create an army of 'panel' or salaried doctors employed by the state, or render the insured workman the unwilling patient of a state selected or controlled physician.

"Broadly speaking, I favor a system of health insurance which will furnish means to the workman to enable him to support himself and family during unemployment caused by sickness, to employ his own physician, to meet the expenses incident to his illness, and to otherwise take care of himself and his dependents in his own way without the dictation of any officer, board, or commission, subject, of course, to such reasonable safeguards against imposition as may be deemed necessary."

At the last meeting of the Council of National Defense, Medical Section, the resignation of Dr. Harry M. Sherman was presented. Dr. Sherman has been Chairman of this committee and worked unceasingly in the interests of National Defense during the past year. He has now joined the colors and is stationed at Fort Rosecrans, San Diego County, Cal. Dr. T. W. Huntington was elected Chairman to fill his place.

The committee discussed the advisability of combining its interests with those of the State Council of National Defense. In order to co-ordinate the workings of the various committees on medical matters, and to prevent duplication of effort and to bring all the activities under one central control it was deemed advisable to place this committee under the supervision of the central State organization.

Resolutions were passed offering the State Council for National Defense the services and functions of this Medical Section. The Secretary was instructed to confer with Mr. C. C. Moore, Chairman of the State Committee. Amalgamation is now under way and bids fair to strengthen the work of the Medical Section and give it greater authority.

The Council elected the following men on the State Governing Board, Volunteer Medical Service Corps: Drs. H. P. Newman, San Diego; Stanley P. Black, Los Angeles; and George H. Aiken, Fresno; to take the place of Dr. Dudley Fulton, Los Angeles, and Dr. T. C. McCleave, of Oakland. Dr. Andrew Henderson, Sacramento, and Dr. J. Henry Barbat, San Francisco, are also on this committee.

The subject of the "Red Chevron" organization was discussed at length, and the committee, through a resolution, disapproves of this organization, preferring to lend its support to relief societies already in existence and of national importance.

The matter of enrollment was discussed and reports from various enrollment committees were read. It is apparent that very efficient work is being done in many county societies and that California is supplying its full quota of men in the service. The work of the Sacramento committee was particularly commended, and it was regularly moved and seconded that the form adopted by the Sacramento society be the standard form throughout the State. It is as follows:

AGREEMENT.

We, the undersigned physicians and surgeons practicing in Sacramento County, hereby agree to be bound by the following plan of induction into the service of the medical branch of the United States Army or Navy:

All physicians to be listed in the following groups:

1. Those fifty-five years of age and over, women physicians, and those disqualified by Army or Navy examining boards.

2. Those under fifty-five years of age.

All those in class one (1) will apply for membership in the Volunteer Medical Service Corps.

Class two (2) to be divided into the following classes:

Class 2 (a) Single men.

Class 2 (b) Married and without children

Class 2 (c) Married with children.

All those in class 2 to be subject to physical examination and enrollment into the Medical Reserve Corps on the following plan:

When the number of men required from Sacramento County proportionate to those wanted from the State of California, as indicated by the Medical Section of the Council of National Defense, is communicated to the Sacramento County Committee, we will apply for examination and enrollment into the Medical Reserve Corps in the following order:

First: Those in class 2 (a) in accordance to age, youngest first. When class 2 (a) is exhausted, those in class 2 (b) will apply in order of age, youngest first. When class 2 (b) is exhausted, class 2 (c) will be called in order of age, youngest first.

All questions as to whether any physician should apply for membership in the Medical Reserve Corps, on the Volunteer Medical Service Corps because of essential public need, or dependency, will be referred to the following committee: Dr. W. E. Briggs, Dr. E. L. Southworth, and Mr. Lester J. Hinsdale.

Nothing in this agreement will prevent any one signing it from applying for membership in the Officers' Reserve Corps or the Volunteer Medical Service Corps prior to his call for examination under the agreement.

Signed_____.

Date_____.

A report from each county was requested at the next meeting of the Council of National Defense. Secretaries will please take notice. The meeting was adjourned.

ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, JULY 27, 1918.

The principal activities of this body were appointing committees as follows:

Committee on Scientific Work: Dr. Fitch C. E. Mattison, Los Angeles, appointed Chairman.

The committees on Public Health, Public Policy and Legislation were continued for the year 1918. The committees on Industrial Accident and Social Health Insurance were discontinued.

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Council in Los Angeles in the month of October.

At the request of Dr. James H. Parkinson, his resignation was accepted, and Dr. J. W. James, of Sacramento, was appointed in his place.

The question of the "Red Chevron" organization was also considered, and it was regularly moved and seconded that the Council of the Medical Society of the State of California withhold its endorsement of the "Red Chevron."

Communications were read from the State Dental Association asking that a committee of six be appointed to confer with their organization on the subject of X-ray and the standing of radiographers. The Chairman appointed the following men to act: Dr. S. B. Soiland, Los Angeles; Dr. Geo. H. Kress, Los Angeles; Dr. H. P. Newman, San Diego; Dr. Lloyd Bryan, Dr. H. E. Alderson and Dr. Saxton Pope, of San Francisco.

The Legal Department made its quarterly report, which was placed on file.

It was moved and seconded that the Publicity Bureau was to make a study and appoint a committee of five to take up the matter of Industrial and Social Insurance and report to the Council at the next meeting.

County Societies

FRESNO COUNTY.

Dr. C. O. Mitchell, secretary of the Fresno County Medical Society, has been called to active military service and has gone to Camp Lewis, Wash. Capt. J. H. Pettis, Capt. W. M. Thorne and Lieut. F. L. R. Burks have gone to Camp Kearny, and Lieut. A. E. Skoonburg has received orders to report to Fort Riley, Kansas. Fresno County is doing her share in offering the services of medical men to the Army.

Dr. W. E. R. Schottstaedt, assistant secretary of the Fresno County Medical Society, will act as secretary during the absence of Dr. Mitchell.

LOS ANGELES COUNTY.

Dr. Howard W. Seager will rejoin Pershing in France. He has received his commission as captain in the Medical Corps. He served with General Pershing, who was then a lieutenant, in the Philippines. After graduation from Rush Medical College in 1896, Captain Seager enlisted with the Fifty-first Volunteer Iowa Infantry from Des Moines. February 4, 1899, during the Filipino insurrection, Seager commanded two ambulances, remaining on the firing line until the following October, going through the bath of fire in Bloody Lane with the Fourteenth Infantry Regulars. He served under Generals H. G. Otis, Hale, Wheaton, McArthur and Lawton when the latter was killed. He served as assistant surgeon, returned to the Philippines and served two years on the Island of Mindanao against the Moros. November 17, 1900, he reported for duty at Zamboanga, Mindanao, to John J. Pershing, who was promoted from first lieutenant and assistant adjutant general to captain. Dr. Seager was on the board of health in Manila during the Asiatic cholera plague, 1902, and returned to Los Angeles as major and surgeon of the Seventh Infantry, California National Guard. When the war